

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on November 3, 2004. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20 are amended. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-14 and 16-20 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naoe (US 5,997,153) in view of Linville (US 5,402,165).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Claims 3 and 4 are amended to depend from claim 2. Claim 5 is amended to refer to “the” guide means. Claim 6 is amended to improve readability thereof.

Claim 8 is amended into independent form and includes the subject matter of original claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 11.

Claim 10 is amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 12 and 13 are amended to depend from claim 8.

Claim 14, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form and includes the subject matter of original claim 1.

Claim 16, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form and includes the subject matter of original claim 1. Claim 17 is amended to depend from claim 16. Claim 18 is amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 20, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form and includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 15.

Accordingly, each of the independent claims now contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in condition for immediate allowance.

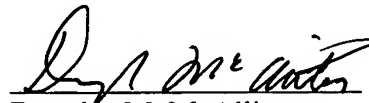
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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